

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 INT-05 JUSE-00

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 SAL-01 /121 W
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O R 081015Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6047

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: GREECE PROTESTS VIOLATION OF ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF
BY SISMIK I

1. THE MAIN STORY IN ALL THE AUGUST 8 SUNDAY ATHENS
NEWSPAPERS (WITH EXCEPTION OF THE TWO COMMUNIST
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DAILIES) IS THE VIOLATION OF THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF

BY THE SISMIC I ON AUGUST 6 AND THE GOG'S PROTEST TO THE GOT ON IT. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT PROTESTS THE VIOLATION OF ITS RIGHTS AND ASKS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE URGENTLY ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO AVOID REPETITION OF THIS VIOLATION. NEWS ABOUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WAS FIRST CARRIED BY THE RADIO AND TV NEWS YESTERDAY EVENING (AUGUST 7).

2. A NOTE PROTESTING THE SISMIC'S ACTIVITIES WAS DELIVERED YESTERDAY IN ANKARA AT 2 P.M. BY GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMADOPOULOS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TURKISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE NOTE, A SUMMARY OR THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH IS CARRIED IN MOST NEWSPAPERS, ADVISES THE TURKISH MFA THAT ON AUGUST 6 AT 1945 HOURS THE TURKISH SHIP MTA SISMIC I HAD BEEN OBSERVED IN WATERS WHICH, WHILE THEY WERE INTERNATIONAL, WERE OVER THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF. AROUND 2200 HOURS THE GOG WAS INFORMED THAT IT HAD BEEN DETERMINED THAT SISMIC WAS ENGAGED IN SEISMIC EXPLORATION ON THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. THIS TOOK PLACE FROM 2045 HOURS AND AT LEAST UNTIL 2240 HOURS. AT 0030 HOURS OF AUGUST 7, ACCORDING TO THE NOTE, THE MTA SISMIC I LEFT THE WATERS OVER GREECE'S CONTINENTAL SHELF. "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT", THE NOTE CONCLUDES "PROTESTS THIS FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF ITS RIGHTS DERIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL LAW AND REQUESTS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE URGENTLY ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES SO THAT THIS VIOLATION IS NOT REPEATED IN THE FUTURE. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ALSO DECLARES THAT IT RESERVES ALL ITS RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BELONGING TO GREECE."

3. THE AREA WHERE THIS EXPLORATION TOOK PLACE, ACCORDING TO THE GOG NOTE, IS INCLUDED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES:

LATITUDE: 39 DEGREES 26.5 N - LONGITUDE: 25 DEGREES 50.5E

39 DEGREES 25 N -	25 DEGREES 48 E
39 DEGREES 22 N -	25 DEGREES 45 E
39 DEGREES 23 N -	25 DEGREES 44 E
39 DEGREES 26 N -	25 DEGREES 45 E
39 DEGREES 28 N -	25 DEGREES 44 E

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39 DEGREES 30 N -	25 DEGREES 43 E
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"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW," THE NOTE STATES, "THIS SECTION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE AEGEAN BELONGS TO GREECE."

4. WHILE THE STORY IS CARRIED IN THE PRESS WITH BANNER HEADLINES, THE REPORTING IS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND CALM.

SOME PAPERS REPORT THAT ANOTHER VIOLATION OF GREECE'S CONTINENTAL SHELF TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY NOON APPARENTLY IN THE SAME AREA NORWEST OF LESVOS (MYTILINI), WHICH THEY INTERPRET AS TURKISH REJECTION OF THE GOG PROTEST. REPRESENTATIVE HEADLINES WERE AS FOLLOWS: RIGHTISH ETHNIKOS KIRYX, "THE SISMIC OVER THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF - GREEK 'NOTE' TO ANKARA YESTERDAY"; CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS, "A STRONG MESSAGE DELIVERED TO ANKARA YESTERDAY AT 2 P.M. - THE CONTINENTAL SHELF VIOLATED - GREECE WILL TAKE NECES-SARY MEASURES"; PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI, "PROVOCATIVE ANKARA 'TESTS' GREEK DETERMINATION - THE CONTINENTAL SHELF VIOLATED - GRADUATED MEASURES STUDIED AFTER THE DELIVERY YESTERDAY OF THE GREEK MESSAGE"; OPPOSITION LIBERAL TO VIMA, "THE TURKS VIOLATE THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF AT NIGHT WITH SEISMIC EXPLORATION - STRONG MESSAGE FROM ATHENS TO ANKARA".

5. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION FROM WELL-INFORMED SOURCES, KATHIMERINI WRITES THAT THE GREEK NOTE OF PROTEST WAS NOT MEANT TO BE A "MILITARY ULTIMATUM." RATHER, IT SAYS, IT IS A LEGAL ACTION TO ASSURE GREECE'S SOVER-EIGN RIGHTS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT POINTS OUT THAT ALTHOUGH INCREASED CONCERN IS NOT JUSTIFIED, ALL NECESSARY MEASURES FOR (MILITARY) PREPAREDNESS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. KATHIMERINI ALSO SUGGESTS, AS DO A FEW OTHER DAILIES, THAT THE NEXT STEP MAY BE RECOURSE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

6. THE TWO COMMUNIST DAILIES, ALONE, GIVE THE STORY SCANT ATTENTION. RIZOSPASTIS (KKE EXTERIOR) HAS A FAIRLY BRIEF BACK PAGE STORY GIVING THE TEXT OF THE GREEK PROTEST NOTE. AVGHI (KKE INTERIOR) ONLY HAS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRONT PAGE HEADLINE ("THE HORA VIOLATES GREEK SPACE IN THE AEGEAN - GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION DELIVERED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT") WITHOUT ANY STORY.

7. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, SOME PAPERS REPORT THAT THE GOG HAS DENIED THE INFORMATION IN A STEVEN ROBERTS AUGUST 6 NY. TIMES STORY ACCORDING TO WHICH "GREEK OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO CONCEDE SOME RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN" AND THE TIMES' EDITORIAL COMMENT THE SAME DAY THAT SOME KIND OF UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE GOT WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, OPPOSTION PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU ATTACKED THE INDICATION IN THESE N.Y. TIMES ARTICLES THAT THE GOG IS SHOWING "GOOD WILL" IN SEEKING TO FIND A "COMPROMISE SOLUTION" WITH TURKEY

WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN AS WELL AS CYPRUS. PAPANDREOU
DECLARED THAT "AS WE HAVE SAID OFTEN BEFORE, BECAUSE
TURKEY CONTESTS GREEK NATIONAL TERRITORY, ANY COMPROMISE
CONSTITUTES A DIRECT CONCESSION OF OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY,
TO TURKEY." HE THEN CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK
UP ON THIS AND CLAIMED THAT IF IT DID NOT, IT WOULD MEAN
THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN FACT NEGOTIATING WITH TURKEY ABOUT
GREEK NATIONAL TERRITORY. A GOVERNMENT SOURCE, IN REPLY
TO PAPANDREOU'S STATEMENT, INDICATED THAT WHAT THE
N.Y. TIMES HAD WRITTEN ABOUT GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS
DID NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE FACTS.
KUBISCH

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